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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

COUNTRY

East Germany/USSR ()

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SUBJECT

Soviet Dependents in Germany

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DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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Gds. Mecz. Army Hq., 4th unit in April 1953 in Germany. Only the CG, counterintelligence (MGB) personnel, and those officers who had been married in the Soviet Zone of Germany had their wives with them in April 1953. Parents, or other relatives had never been permitted to come to Germany, even if they were dependents. Only children up to seven years of age were in the Soviet Zone in April 1953; older children were returned to the USSR for schooling.

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number of wives in Germany to have been as follows:

Six armies -- about 50 wives with each	300
GOPG	200
Air Force	200
Control Commission	200
Total	900

2. From 1947 to 1949, the length of the sponsor's tour in Germany was also the allowable period of stay for dependents. Since 1950, wives going on leave to the USSR were not permitted to return to Germany. Officers and re-enlisted NCO's (sverkhsrochniki) were allowed to marry Soviet female officers, "soldierettes" and some civilian employees, but each party had to finish his or her tour of duty. A Soviet "soldierette", civilian, or female officer,

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whose tour of duty extended beyond that of her husband, could leave with him only if she were pregnant.

3. In 1953, only generals commanding armies or generals with the rank of general-lieutenant or higher could bring their dependents into Germany. [redacted] border troop officers (pogranichniki) could also bring their wives into the Soviet Zone. 25X1

4. [redacted] jet pilots stationed in the Soviet Zone could still bring their wives there in 1953. In addition high-ranking Communist Party members and high-ranking members of the Soviet Control Commission could bring their wives to Germany. (Members of the Control Commission were considered part of the diplomatic corps, and as such had special privileges.) EM, including re-enlisted NCO's, had never had the privilege of bringing their wives into the Soviet Zone. 25X1

5. No wives were permitted in the Soviet Zone of Germany immediately after World War II. At the end of 1946 or the beginning of 1947, Soviet officers and high-ranking civilians were permitted to bring their wives and children (regardless of age) to Germany, and schools were established for the children. In the Summer of 1948 the new GOFG order prohibited the military from bringing their families to Germany. Those families already in Germany were permitted to remain, but the men were rotated earlier than scheduled. Returning all Soviet wives and children to the USSR was a slow process and lasted until Spring, 1952. The schools were closed in 1949 or 1950. Children of school age were returned earlier than their fathers -- officially to attend schools in the USSR, but actually to force their mothers to return with them.

6. The wives and children of counterintelligence (MGB) personnel and high-ranking Communist Party members were not required to return to the USSR because these men represented a government within a government and had their own laws. MGB personnel were permitted to bring their dependents to Germany until 1952. However, since the Summer of 1952, MGB personnel were no longer permitted to bring their dependents to Germany, and dependents going to the USSR with their sponsors, who were on leave, were not permitted to return to Germany. Dependents of MGB officers who came to Germany before the Summer, 1952 and had not returned to the USSR when their sponsors went on leave, were still in Germany in April 1953. Likewise, high-ranking civilians with the Soviet Control Commission could still bring their wives into Germany. In 1952 a counter-intelligence (MGB) lieutenant could bring his wife into the Soviet Zone, although Gen. Maj. KOSHELEV [redacted] Chief of Staff, 4th Gds. Mech. Army, could not. This situation had a bad influence on officer morale. Gen. Maj. KOSHELEV made four applications to the Armed Forces Ministry in Moscow to bring his wife to Germany, which were turned down. 25X1

7. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the real reason for this restriction was the fact that the Soviet wives in Germany fraternized to a great extent with German women, sold food on the black market for clothes, visited the homes of German dressmakers and beauticians, and thus had a chance to admire the conveniences of the average German home as compared to Soviet apartments. Upon their return to the USSR, the women told exaggerated tales of the luxuries in the most modest German homes and thus destroyed the myth that the Soviet people had the highest standard of living.

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